

"Land Quality" Month

2004

www.IN.gov/idem/getintheknow

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
			COMPOST	Americans throw away 12 billion pounds of food scraps every year. Use your food scraps in a compost bin, where nature will manufacture it into nutrients for the soil.	If possible, spot treat problem areas of your yard, rather than the whole yard. It isn't necessary to treat the whole lawn with herbicides or pesticides if the problem is confined to certain areas.	Each year, 9 million gallons of gasoline are lost due to spills and leaks. That's like spilling an oil supertanker each year. Check your vehicle for drips and leaks regularly and fix them promptly.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Practice environ- mental shopping. Purchase products that are durable, reusable or pack- aged in bulk. Less packaging means less waste for disposal, saving space in landfills.	Don't delay! Local units of government, SWMDs, non-profits, and schools still have time to apply for a 2004 grant for source reduction, recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste programs.	What's in your backyard? Search for ZIP code-specific environmental and facility information in your community to find out.	Clean up pet waste! Pet waste can seep into the ground, sending E. coli and potential pathogens into the ground water and eventually water- ways.	When fertilizing your lawn, use only the amount of fer- tilizer rec- ommended; more is not better.	Worms are very efficient scavengers and eat more than their weight in food scraps every day. Worm composting can be used as an effective food waste management practice for the home or institutions.	Chipping wood debris significantly reduces the volume of loose tree limbs, brush and other wood wastes. Wood chips can be used as mulch, garden, playground or other landscape cover or in composting.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Use both sides of the paper. Reuse decreases our reli- ance on natural resources to make new products.	Keep your lawn healthy by cutting often enough to remove 1/3 of the grass height. To reduce water use and improve your lawn's ability to tolerate stress in the summer, cut grass 2 1/2-3 inches high.	IDEM invites you to join us from 11:30 to 1:30 outside on the west end of the Indiana Govern- ment Center North for a presentation on worm compost- ing, also known as vermicomposting.	If you are looking to buy a new lawn-mower, try using a mulching lawnmower, which chops grass into finer pieces. This makes the clippings decompose quicker, thus helping to prevent thatch buildup.	Adopt a wetland to increase flood control, keep rivers and streams clean, clean your drinking water supply and provide habitat for hundreds of beautiful plants and animals.	Reduce the environ- mental impacts of landscaping your lawn and property. Try xeri- scaping, landscaping with native, slow-grow- ing, drought-tolerant plants to conserve water and reduce yard trimmings.	Save valuable land- fill space by know- ing about your garbage. Each American throws away about 3.5 pounds of garbage a day. Find out how much of your gar- bage is recyclable.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
In most areas of Indiana, burning of yard wastes is ille- gal. Local burning bans were enacted because of air pol- lution and fire con- cerns.	"Clean Your Files Week" starts today. Clean out old files and recycle unneeded papers. Recycling paper reduces waste and uses 60 percent less energy than manufacturing paper from virgin timber.	Hold a school-wide clean up for Earth Day and recycling awareness. Work with your local solid waste management district to find out what can be recycled and how other wastes should be disposed of.	Plant a tree on Earth Day and dedicate it to your school. Use the tree as a symbol to remember your commitment to protect our envi- ronment.	Earth Day, cele- brated April 22, is the largest, most cel- ebrated environmen- tal event worldwide. Earth Day reminds us to appreciate nature and to learn ways to protect our environment.	Reduce pesticide use. Encourage beneficial insects into your garden by planting flowers that provide nectar and pollen.	Celebrate Earth Day at the Earth Day Festival on April 24, in downtown India- napolis at the American Legion Mall.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Stop struggling with a hard-to-start, noisy, polluting gasoline-powered mower. Try using a reel or electric lawnmower instead. They're lightweight, quiet, easy to use and virtually maintenance free!	Take a reusable cup or mug in your lunch instead of a disposable drink. We could circle the Earth four times with the 25 billion disposable cups used each year.	ity instead of in the driveway. Uti-	Ozone season starts May 1st. To help prevent ground level ozone formation, wait until the evening to get gas and to mow the lawn on hot and muggy days.	Avoid spilling gasoline on the ground, especially near wells. If a small spill occurs, use kitty litter, sawdust or an absorbent towel to soak up the spill, then dispose of it properly.	Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree. It is an act of optimism and kindness, a labor of love and a com- mitment to stew- ardship.	



IDEM's searchable database for organic recycling and composting http://www.lN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/index.html

http://www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/index.html

Organic Recycling Benefits — http://www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/benefits.html
Organic Recycling Defined — http://www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/defined.html
Backyard Composting — http://www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/programs/backyard.html
Leaf Waste — http://www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/materials/leaf.html

Management of Grass Clippings — http://www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/materials/grass.html
Mulching [PDF - 13KB] — http://www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/programs/mulch.pdf
Vermiculture Programs — http://www.IN.gov/idem/oppta/recycling/organics/programs/vermiculture.html